ART BY ICHIHA AKIZUKI
WRITTEN BY MAI MOCHIZUKI
CHARACTER DESIGNS BY
SHIZU YAMAUCHI

CHAPTER 15
THE LOST DRAGON
—KAJIWARA AKIHITO'S REPORT— (PART 1)

蔵
KURA

1#1

I'M BEGGING YOU, HOLMES!

YOU GOTTA HELP ME!

CLAP

I'M NOT SOME FREELANCE FOR HIRE, YOU KNOW.

I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D TURN UP AGAIN...

THIS JOB IS A MAJOR OPPORTUNITY FOR ME!

And who might that be?

A FRIEND?

YOU'D TURN AWAY A FRIEND IN HIS HOUR OF NEED?

I'M BASICALLY THE LEAD!

I'M PLAYING THE GUIDE ON A TRAVEL SHOW ABOUT KYOTO.

A tour of the beauties of Kyoto...

美しき古都を訪ねて…

KYOTO DAYS 京日和

案内役・梶原秋人

GUIDE: KAJIWARA AKIHITO

WELL, I WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME THAT.

JUST THINK OF THE VIEWS!

THIS MIGHT EVEN HELP ME SCORE MORE WORK!

IT'S ONLY A FIVE-MINUTE WEB SERIES, BUT IT'LL BE ALL OVER THE NET!

IF IT GETS POPULAR, IT COULD HAVE A REALLY LONG TAIL!

WELL... YOU KNOW ALL KINDS OF STUFF, RIGHT?

BUT WHY DO YOU NEED ME TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR RESEARCH BEFORE FILMING?

WHAT IS IT LIKE, THEN?

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

SURELY YOU KNOW HOW TO READ BOOKS AND SEARCH THE INTERNET, DON'T YOU?

Like with Dad's hanging scrolls!

IT RESONATES WITH ME!

WHEN I LOOK THINGS UP MYSELF, THEY NEVER SEEM TO STICK.

BUT FOR SOME REASON, WHEN YOU SAY STUFF, IT REALLY STAYS WITH ME...

WELL, I CAN'T SAY I'M NOT TOUCHED...

THE OTHER DAY, WE DISCOVERED A COUNTERFEIT PIECE IN A MUSEUM,

AND SO MY GRANDFATHER AND I HAVE BEEN CHECKING OUT OTHER MUSEUMS, TOO.

BUT I'M PRESENTLY QUITE BUSY.

WITH WHAT?

THEY WERE QUITE WELL MADE, TOO.

IT'S CLEAR NOW THAT WE HAVE A SKILLED COUNTERFEITER ON THE LOOSE.

AND WHAT? YOU FOUND MORE COUN-TERFEITS?

REGRET-TABLY, YES.

I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT.

MAKIN' FAKES TO TRICK PEOPLE...

EEK!

LEER

APPRAISER VERSUS COUNTER-FEITER, HUH?

FEELS LIKE A TV SHOW!

WELL... I MUST SAY YOU'RE NOT WRONG.

WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO DETECT THE MYSTERIOUS ENERGY INSTILLED IN GENUINE ART...

AND THE SUGGESTION OF MALICE AND DECEPTION PRESENT IN FORGERIES.

THEREFORE, WE APPRAISERS HAVE TO BE EVEN BETTER THAN THAT.

COUNTER-FEITERS DO TEND TO HAVE AN EXCELLENT EYE FOR ART.

YOU CAN'T COPY A PIECE IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL.

IT IS, INDEED, NOT UNLIKE A COMPETITION BETWEEN THE DECEIVER AND THE BEHOLDER.

GULP

...

THAT SAID...

MOREOVER, I KNOW THIS IS QUITE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU.

Y-YOU MEAN...

IT'S NOT AS THOUGH IT'S A PROBLEM I CAN SOLVE SINGLE-HANDEDLY.

AND IF YOUR PROGRAM AIMS TO TEACH OTHERS ABOUT KYOTO, HOW COULD I REFUSE TO HELP?

NANZENJI?

THAT'S QUITE A COINCI-DENCE...

WHAT WILL YOUR PROGRAM BE FEATURING FIRST?

NANZENJI TEMPLE!

SHALL WE GO TOMORROW, THEN?

T-TOMOR-ROW? SURE, BUT...

It's just sudden.

YOU MEAN I'M JUST AN AFTER-THOUGHT ?!

THE TRUTH IS, I HAVE AN ENGAGEMENT AT NANZENJI TOMORROW AFTERNOON ANYWAY.

LET'S SEE...

☆ 地下鉄 Keage Station | 蹴上駅 Subway

Entrance 出入口 1

"FROM KEAGE STATION ON THE TOZAI LINE, PASS THROUGH THE SPIRAL BRICK TUNNEL. IT'S A TEN MINUTE WALK FROM THERE."

SEEMS PRETTY CLOSE.

SPEAKING OF, WHAT'S THE SPIRAL BRICK TUNNEL?

WHEN VISITING NANZENJI, PLEASE TAKE THE BUS OR SUBWAY RATHER THAN DRIVING THERE.

BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE HE NAILED ME LIKE THAT...

MOST TOURISTS USE PUBLIC TRANSPOR-TATION.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO SEE KYOTO, YOU SHOULD SEE IT THROUGH THEIR EYES.

I really was planning on driving here.

LOOKS KILLA RETRO.

THAT'S NOT IT.

THE BRICKS ARE STACKED IN A SLOW SPIRAL...

GUESS THAT'S WHERE THE "SPIRAL BRICK" PART COMES FROM.

HEY, I THINK I CAN...

THIS IS A PRETTY NARROW STREET...

AWESOME!

THRILLING, ISN'T IT?

HOLMES!

NANZENJI IS THE HEAD TEMPLE OF THE NANZENJI BRANCH OF RINZAI ZEN BUDDHISM.

IT'S THE HIGHEST CLASS OF ZEN TEMPLE IN JAPAN.

A WHOLE 22 METERS?!

NANZENJI'S SANMON GATE IS 22 METERS TALL.

COMING OUT OF THAT WESTERN-Y BRICK TUNNEL TO SEE THIS HUGE GATE...

IT WAS KIND OF A WEIRD LIKE IT FEELING. MADE ME APPRECIATE HOW BIG THE GATE IS EVEN MORE.

DID YOU ENJOY THE WALK FROM THE STATION?

YEAH, IT WAS PRETTY OKAY.

I SEE I WAS RIGHT TO RECOMMEND THAT ROUTE.

FOR REAL?

WELL, I WON'T DENY IT...

WHAT? YOU SAYING YOU PLAYED ME?

AKIHITO-SAN,

THAT HONEST ENTHUSIASM OF YOURS IS YOUR BEST TRAIT.

TRY TO REMEMBER HOW YOU FEEL WHEN YOU SEE EVERYTHING TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME,

AND THEN PASS ON THAT SENSE OF WONDER TO THE VIEWERS.

R-RIGHT....

NO ONE'S EVER TOLD ME THAT BEFORE...

NOW, LET'S VISIT THE BALCONY.

I'VE BOUGHT OUR TICKETS ALREADY.

WHAT IS THIS, A DATE?

三門参拝入口

Sanmon Visitor Entrance

I... I KNOW THAT!

YOU'LL BE REPRESENTING KYOTO MEN IN THIS PROGRAM, AFTER ALL.

BUT DO TRY TO AVOID SAYING THINGS LIKE "AWESOME" AND "FOR REAL."

AWESOME!

SNAP

HUH?

Where'd you get that fan?

IT JUST MAKES YOU WANT TO EXCLAIM, "SUCH A VIEW, SUCH A VIEW!"

IT'S LIKE I CAN SEE THE WHOLE CITY!

...AS HE STANDS ATOP THE GATE, SMOKING A PIPE AND LOOKING DOWN AT THE CITY.

THAT'S WHAT THE THIEF ISHIKAWA GOEMON SAYS...

IT'S A LINE FROM THE KABUKI PLAY *SANMON GOSAN NO KIRI*.

NOT A LIE. JUST A STORY.

SO, WHAT? IT'S ALL A BIG LIE?

OF COURSE, THE GATE WASN'T BUILT UNTIL AFTER THE REAL ISHIKAWA GOEMON WAS IMPRISONED, SO HE NEVER REALLY CLIMBED UP HERE.

I WONDER HOW MUCH MORE SPECTACULAR THIS VIEW MUST HAVE SEEMED...

IT'S AN EXPRESSION OF HOW MOVED PEOPLE WERE BY THE VIEW.

YEAH... I THINK I CAN GET THAT.

...IN A DAY AND AGE WITHOUT ALL THE TALL BUILDINGS WE HAVE TODAY.

IT'S QUITE AN INTERESTING STRUCTURE ITSELF.

WELL, MY APPOINTMENT ISN'T UNTIL THIS AFTER-NOON.

WHY DON'T WE SEE THE AQUEDUCT NEXT?

THIS AQUEDUCT WAS BUILT IN THE MEIJI ERA...

...TO CARRY IN WATER FROM LAKE BIWA.

IT WAS CONSTRUCTED 120 YEARS AGO, AND IT'S STILL IN USE TODAY.

BECAUSE IT WOULD PASS OVER NANZENJI GROUNDS, PLANS FOR IT WERE HARSHLY CRITICIZED.

AND SO, TO BUILD IT IN A WAY THAT WOULDN'T RUIN THE SCENERY,

THEY CHOSE WHAT WAS—AT THE TIME—A VERY MODERN, FOREIGN DESIGN.

AWE-SOME...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S THIS HUGE BRIDGE ON THE TEMPLE GROUNDS.

...

YES? WHAT IS IT?

I'VE HEARD THEY'RE FREQUENTLY USED IN DRAMAS AND PHOTO SHOOTS.

NOWADAYS, THESE WESTERN-STYLE STRUCTURES THAT JUST OOZE HISTORY ARE QUITE POPULAR.

CLASP

I'M SO GLAD I ASKED YOU TO SHOW ME AROUND!

HOLMES!

I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.

I'M STARTING TO GET SOME CRAZY AWESOME IMAGES!

A TEMPLE WITH BOTH EASTERN AND WESTERN CHARM...

SNAG

HOW-EVER...

GRIND GRIND GRIND

S... SORRY...

GRIND

I HAVE TO ASK THAT YOU REF-RAIN...

...FROM GIVING PEOPLE THE WRONG IDEA WHEN WE'RE IN PUBLIC.

GRIND GRIND

THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF COUPLES HERE, THOUGH.

IT'S SOMETHING OF A DATE HOTSPOT.

SPEAKING OF, DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?

FOR REAL?

I BET YOU MEET PLENTY OF GIRLS, THOUGH.

I DO NOT.

YOU COULD SAY MY OBSERVANT NATURE WORKS AGAINST ME IN THAT REGARD.

WHEN I'M WITH SOMEONE, I TEND TO NOTICE THINGS I'D RATHER NOT.

LIKE WHEN SOMEONE'S LYING OR BEING CALCULATING.

MOREOVER, THE FIRST PERSON I EVER DATED REWARDED ME WITH PAINFUL BETRAYAL.

IT'S PUT ME OFF OF WOMEN COMPLETELY.

BUT I KNOW THAT'S HARDLY CONSIDERED ADMIRABLE,

SO PLEASE KEEP IT BETWEEN US.

S-SURE.

WOW, THAT'S A HELL OF A THING TO JUST THROW OUT THERE...

SO AS THINGS STAND, I'D PREFER TEMPORARY LIAISONS WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT.

WHAT ABOUT HER?

BUT WHAT ABOUT AOI-CHAN?

I GOT THE IMPRESSION SHE'S SPECIAL TO YOU.

WHEN SHE FIRST CAME TO THE STORE AND BROKE DOWN CRYING,

I FELT LIKE I WAS SEEING MY PAST SELF.

I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THAT...

THAT REACTION... AM I RIGHT?

WELL? AM I?

BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO CRY LIKE SHE DID AFTER THE FACT.

I WAS MORE CONCERNED WITH KEEPING UP APPEARANCES TO PROTECT MY WOUNDED PRIDE.

BEING BETRAYED BY SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR...

THE CIRCUM-STANCES OF OUR BREAKUPS WERE RATHER SIMILAR.

SO SEEING AOI-SAN LIKE THAT...

EXPOSING HER WEAKNESS AND UGLINESS WITHOUT SHAME OR HESITATION...

I FOUND IT BOTH ASTOUNDINGLY ENVIABLE AND BEAUTIFUL.

...AND I WANTED TO HELP HER.

YEAH, THAT'S... KIND OF...

YES, I THINK SO.

ANYWAY... TIME FOR LUNCH?

FWIP

...

RRRRR...

ろろろ...

GRRRRRRRROWL

I JUST KNOW AOI-CHAN FEELS!

ろろろろろ

That's right.

I KNOW A GOOD YUDOFU RESTAURANT NEARBY.

I LOVE YUDOFU!

IT JUST WARMS YOU RIGHT UP.

IT'LL BE MY TREAT! AS THANKS FOR SHOWING ME AROUND AND EVERYTHING!

YOU GOTTA LET ME PAY!

YES, WELL... MUCH OBLIGED.

CHAPTER 15 END